REMARKS

Claims 1-24 and 27-29 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 25 and 30 have been amended. Claims 25, 26 and 30, as amended, remain in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claims 18 and 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamilton (USP 5,176,520) in view of Mortimer (USP 6,091,930) and Fernandez (USP 4,855,725) and Sallette (USP 6,155,840). Claims 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamilton/Mortimer, as applied to claim 18, and further in view of Sanford (USP 6,688,891) and Lee (USP 6,064,856). Claims 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamilton/Mortimer/Sanford/Lee as applied to claims 25 and 26, and further in view of Richter (USP 6,615,020). Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamilton/Mortimer/Sanford/Lee/Richter as applied to claim 27, and further in view of Lemelson (USP 5,823,788).

The rejections of claims 18-24 and 27-29 are made moot by the cancellation of these claims. The rejections of claims 25, 26 and 30 are respectfully traversed with respect to claims 25, 26 and 30, as amended.

Claims 25, 26 and 30, as amended, define a system comprising a number of elements in combination. The claimed combination includes (a) an attendance management feature, (b) an exam management feature, and (c) a credit management feature.

Regarding attendance management, the listener terminal has identification information corresponding to a student number. The listener terminal obtains position information based on a listener's input using an input pen. When the position information is obtained, the listener terminal acquires attendance data and sends the attendance data, the student number and the identification information to the attendance-management terminal as an "attendance result". Using the attendance result, a processor in the attendance-management terminal determines the percentage of each listener is in attendance.

Regarding exam management, the listener terminal sends to the marking terminal information representing answers to an exam taken at the listener terminal. The marking terminal marks the exam based on the answer data, and stores the resulting data as "marked result."

Regarding credit management, the credit-management terminal obtains the attendance results from the attendance terminal and the marked results from the marking terminal. The credit-management terminal determines whether or not the listener (i.e., the student) passes the course based on both the attendance results and the exam results.

A similar combination of elements, including the claimed attendance management feature, exam management feature and credit management feature in combination, is neither disclosed nor suggested in any of the cited references, viewed alone or in combination.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 116692001100.

Dated: August 5, 2005   Respectfully submitted,

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